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FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			HINDENLANG, ALISON L.	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/563,614	Applicant(s) BRISSET ET AL.
	Examiner ALISON HINDENLANG	Art Unit 4151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7,12 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 January 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/06/2006 and 03/23/2006
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "16" has been used to designate both "a first common shaft" (page 5, line 32), "two shafts" (page 6, line 4), "three shafts" (page 9, line 6) and "the air extraction shaft" (page 10, line 20). These are only a few specific examples of places where reference is made to "16". Each numbered conduit/shaft should have its own reference character. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37

CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: on page 14, line 14 the reference number 36 is used without following letters (i.e.: "36a", "36b"). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains the phrases "comprising" and "means for". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

6. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The paragraph beginning "moreover, the regulation arrangements implemented by the invention" (page 15, lines 26-31) is unclear.

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

8. Examiner has noted that claim 1 contains means plus function language in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph which reads:

An element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means or step for performing a specified function without the recital of structure, material, or acts in support thereof, and such claim shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof.

Examiner invokes 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph for the purposes of claim interpretation in the instant application.

9. Examiner wishes to point out to applicant that claims 1-20 are directed towards an apparatus and as such will be examined under such conditions. The material worked upon and the process of using the apparatus are viewed as recitation of intended use and are given no patentable weight (Please see MPEP 2114 R1-2115 R2 for further details).

Claim Objections

10. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: the symbol "§" in line 2 is not English. For the purposes of continuing with examination claim 7, line 2 has been interpreted as reading -at least one fan-. Appropriate correction is required.

11. Claims 12 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: the word "it" is used in line 2 of both claims ("wherein it includes") in such a way that it is unclear what is being referred to. For the purposes of continuing with examination, examiner has interpreted "it" as meaning --said installation-. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Manning (US 4576619). Manning teaches:

A method for the production of tablets, wherein a gas is fed into an enclosure that forms part of a machine for the production of tablets ("a housing... for accommodating powder processing machinery, the housing having an inlet leading to a source of air", column 1, lines 25-28), and distributed throughout the enclosure, ("means for passing air at a predetermined rate through the apparatus", column 1, lines 30-31)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

16. Claims 1, 3, 5-16, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manning (US 4576619) and further in view of Korsch (DE 2363921) (already of record).

17. With respect to claim 1, Manning teaches:

An installation comprising a machine for the production of tablets ("a housing...for accommodating powder processing machinery", column 1, lines 25-27), where the machine has at least one enclosure wherein the installation includes means for injecting a gas into the enclosure and to distribute it throughout the enclosure ("means for passing air at a predetermined rate through the apparatus", column 1, lines 30-31).

Manning does not teach:

said means being arranged so as to control the temperature of the gas at a predetermined location upstream of the enclosure in order to ensure that the temperature of the gas in the enclosure reaches a predetermined value.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, discloses a thermally insulated cabin with an internal temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin

which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

18. With respect to claim 3, Manning does not teach "wherein said means are arranged to cool the gas".

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, discloses a thermally insulated cabin with an internal temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin for the purpose of cooling the gas being provided to the cabin. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and air conditioner taught by Korsch for the purpose of cooling the gas being provided to the cabin.

19. With respect to claim 5, Manning does not teach "wherein said means are arranged to control the relative humidity of the gas"

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, a thermally insulated cabin with an internal humidity sensor (66) linked to an air conditioning device (50) which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the

sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

20. With respect to claim 6, Manning further teaches "wherein said means include at least one particle filter" ("an absolute filter 16" column 3, line 3, figure 1 and 2).

21. With respect to claim 7, Manning further teaches "wherein said means include at least one fan place upstream or downstream of the enclosure" ("air is blown into the housing 1 by fan 13", column 3, line 47, figures 1 and 2).

22. With respect to claim 8, Manning further teaches "wherein the enclosure includes devices for shaping of the tablets" ("a housing 1 containing a tabletting machine 2", column 2, lines 54-55, figures 1 and 2)

23. With respect to claim 9, Manning does not teach "wherein the enclosure includes a motor".

24. In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches a drive unit 8 with an electric motor 9 (page 6, lines 26-27) which are clearly contained within cabin 12 (figure 1) for the purpose of running the tablet press in the controlled environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cabin taught by Manning by enclosing the motor as taught by Korsch for the purpose of running the tablet press in the controlled environment.

25. With respect to claim 10, Manning does not teach "wherein the enclosure includes an electronic device".

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches measuring probes 64, 65, and 66, which function as transmitters (page 10, paragraph 1) for the purpose of creating a control loop for maintaining operating conditions. Since the sensors are sending signals examiner considers them to be electronic devices. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the housing taught by Manning with the transmitting sensors taught by Korsch for the purpose of creating a control loop for maintaining operating conditions.

26. With respect to claim 11, Manning further teaches "wherein the enclosures are at least two in number, and the machine includes means for injecting a gas into each enclosure and to distribute it" ("where two powder processing machines are working ... two separate compartments... connected in parallel to the source of air", column 1 line 64 through column 2 line 1).

27. With respect to claim 12, Manning further teaches "wherein it includes gas conduits arranged to feed gas to the enclosures using a parallel arrangement" ("compartments can be connected in parallel to the source of air and to the collector", column 1, line 68 to column 2, line 2).

28. With respect to claim 13, Manning further teaches "wherein the means are partially common to the enclosures" ("compartments can be connected in parallel to the source of air and to the collector", column 1, line 68 to column 2, line 2).

29. With respect to claim 14, Manning further teaches "wherein said mean include at least one gas conduit connected so that it can be removed from the enclosure" ("the whole structure is constructed to be easily demountable", column 3, line 43-44).
30. With respect to claim 15, Manning further teaches "wherein it includes at least one stopper to interrupt the flow of gas between the enclosure and the remainder of the installation" ("motorized valve 12" column 2, lines 65-66, figures 1 and 2).
31. With respect to claim 16, Manning further teaches "wherein said means are arranged to control a flow of gas associated with the enclosure by allowing the choice of one flow from various non-zero flow values" ("when the pressure sensor 18 detects a pressure below a preset value ... they turn off fans 13 and 28", column 4, lines 5-7).
32. With respect to claim 19, this claim contains a recitation of intended use and does not further structurally limit the apparatus of claim 1 from which it depends.
Therefor claim 19 is rejected under the combination of Manning and Korsch as applied above.
33. With respect to claim 20, this claim contains a recitation of intended use and does not further structurally limit the apparatus of claim 1 from which it depends.
Therefor claim 20 is rejected under the combination of Manning and Korsch as applied above.
34. With respect to claim 21, Manning (US 45476619) teaches:

A process for the production of tablets, wherein gas is injected into an enclosure that forms part of a machine for the production of tablets ("a housing...for accommodating powder processing machinery, the housing having an inlet leading to a source of air", column 1, lines 25-28), and is distributed throughout the enclosure ("means for passing air at a predetermined rate through the apparatus", column 1, lines 30-31),

35. Manning does not teach:

in that the temperature of the gas is controlled at a predetermined location upstream of the enclosure in order to ensure that the temperature of the gas in the enclosure reaches a predetermined value.

36. In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch (DE 2363921) teaches:

in that the temperature of the gas is controlled at a predetermined location upstream of the enclosure in order to ensure that the temperature of the gas in the enclosure reaches a predetermined value.

37. In claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, Korsch discloses a thermally insulated cabin with an internal temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

38. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manning (US 4576619) as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Korsch (DE 2363921).

39. With respect to claim 24, Manning does not teach "wherein the temperature of the gas is controlled".

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, a thermally insulated cabin with an internal

temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

40. With respect to claim 25, Manning does not teach:

wherein the temperature of the gas is controlled at a predetermined location upstream of the enclosure, in order to ensure that the temperature of the gas in the enclosure reaches a predetermined value.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, a thermally insulated cabin with an internal temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

41. With respect to claim 26, Manning does not teach:

wherein the temperature of the gas is controlled at a predetermined location upstream of the enclosure so that the temperature reaches a predetermined value.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Korsch teaches, in claim 4 and figures 3 and 4, a thermally insulated cabin with an internal temperature sensor (64) linked to an air conditioning device (50) upstream of the cabin

which is set to a predetermined value for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the housing taught by Manning with the sensor and the air conditioning device taught by Korsch for the purpose of reducing operation fluctuations by better controlling operation conditions.

42. Claims 2, 4 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Manning (US 4576619) and Korsch (DE 2363921) as applied to claims 1 and 21 above, and further in view of David (4601866) (already of record).

43. With respect to claim 2, the combination of Manning and Korsch does not teach: wherein said means are arranged to control the temperature of the gas at the predetermined location, in order to ensure that the temperature at this location reaches a predetermined value.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, David teaches:

wherein said means are arranged to control the temperature of the gas at the predetermined location, in order to ensure that the temperature at this location reaches a predetermined value ("chamber 50 is associated with heating or cooling unit 51", column 5, lines 10-11, figure 7).

for the purpose of maintaining operating temperature at all times. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine installation taught by the combination of Manning and Korsch by co-locating the temperature sensor and controlling device as taught by David for the purpose of maintaining operating temperature at all times.

44. With respect to claim 4, the combination of Manning and Korsch does not teach "wherein said means are arranged to heat the gas".

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, David teaches "this chamber is connected to a heating or cooling unit or adjustable temperature" (column 2, lines 52-53) for the purpose of controlling the ambient temperature around a tabletting machine in a simple way. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the installation taught by the combination of Manning and Korsch by replacing the cooling unit with a heating unit as taught by David for the purpose of controlling the ambient temperature around a tabletting machine in a simple way.

45. With respect to claim 22, the combination of Manning and Korsch does not teach: wherein the temperature of the gas is controlled at the predetermined location in order to ensure that the temperature at this location reaches a predetermined value.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, David teaches:

wherein the temperature of the gas is controlled at the predetermined location in order to ensure that the temperature at this location reaches a predetermined value. ("chamber 50 is associated with heating or cooling unit 51", column 5, lines 10-11, figure 7).

for the purpose of maintaining operating temperature at all times. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine installation taught by the combination of Manning and Korsch by co-locating the temperature sensor and controlling device as taught by David for the purpose of

maintaining operating temperature at all times.

46. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Manning (US 4576619) and Korsch (DE 2363921) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shimada (US 3999922).

47. With respect to claim 17, the combination of Manning and Korsch does not teach: wherein said means include a diffusion box placed in the enclosure having at least two openings for entry of the gas into the enclosure.

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Shimada teaches:

wherein said means include a diffusion box placed in the enclosure having at least two openings for entry of the gas into the enclosure ("The post 44 has at its lower end a clean air inlet 49 communicating with the inlet duct 39 provided inside the stand frame 25 and with the interior of the quadrilateral frame 48. The quadrilateral frame 48 has a clean air outlet opening 50 in an inner side wall thereof", column 3, lines 46-47, figure 1).

for the purpose of providing clean air to the tablet press and the surrounding cabin. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the cabin taught by the combination of Manning and Korsch with a diffusion box as taught by Shimada for the purpose of providing clean air to the tablet press and the surrounding cabin.

48. With respect to claim 18, the combination of Manning and Korsch does not teach "wherein the openings are located on different faces of the diffusion box".

In the same field of endeavor, climate control in powder processing, Shimada teaches "inlet duct 39" (column 3, line 44) on "post 44" (column 3, line 42) and "clean air

outlet opening 50" (column 3, line 46) on "quadrilateral frame 48" (column 3, line 46) which, as shown in figure 1, different faces of the air system for the purpose of providing clean air to the tablet press and the surrounding cabin. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the cabin taught by the combination of Manning and Korsch with a diffusion box as taught by Shimada for the purpose of providing clean air to the tablet press and the surrounding cabin.

Conclusion

49. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shimada (US 7381356) discloses the control and cleaning of a rotary tablet press maintained under vacuum. Christiaens (US 6676863) is the published patent of US 2003/0042639 which is already of record. Willich (US 4259049) discloses a system for cooling and cleaning a tablet press wherein air is supplied around the individual plungers. Schneible (US 2593702) discloses the use of a gaseous curtain with a ventilation system to protect an operator in which the air used is filtered and heated.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALISON HINDENLANG whose telephone number is (571) 270-7001. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30 - 5 pm; Every other Friday 7:30 - 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Ortiz can be reached on 571-272-1206. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ALH

*/Angela Ortiz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4151*